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PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY RECORDS.

[Hon. Francis R. Lassiter in sending us copies of Spotswood's Proclamation, Peter Jones' Will and Inventory of David Black's Library, taken from Prince George County Records, writes as follows:]

Pursuant to an order of the County Court, the writer has, for some months, had the custody of four volumes or parts of volumes of the court records of Prince George county. With the exception of a volume and some odd pages of the County Surveyor's record, and a small bundle of old wills, the four volumes contain all that is extant of the records of the eighteenth century. Carelessness of later clerks and frequent changes of the courthouse location has doubtless contributed to this regrettable condition. The vandalism of two wars is, however, chiefly responsible. What remained from the British incursions of 1781, was destroyed or carried off bodily by the Federal soldiers in 1865. The chief remaining volume, a huge tome, measuring 18x14x6 inches, and weighing thirty-two pounds, was recovered from a deserted camp by a small boy who is now the Hon. Timothy Rives, judge of the county. Its heroic captor doubtless found it heavy reading.

The loss of these records baulks the antiquary and genealogist, and breaks the chain of discoverable title to all that large tract of country bounded northerly, from Chippoaks creek, by the James and Appomattox rivers to the headwaters of the latter, and southerly by the Nottoway river from its springs to the Rowanty creek. The county of Prince George was carved out of Charles City county in the first year of the reign of "our Sovereign Lady Ann by the Grace of God of Great Brittain, France and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith," &c. (anno gratiæ, 1702), and was doubtless named after her consort, Prince George of Denmark. The exact limits of the county cannot be accurately defined, though ineffectual search has been made in the archives of the State and among the colonial records in London. Only the title of the Act of Assembly creating it remains,* but it is certain that in addition to the present county of Prince George, the counties of Dinwiddie, Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward were included, and many conveyances of land in Brunswick are recorded in the extant volumes. All of the titles to land in Petersburg have their origin in the Prince George records, and much historical matter may yet be gleaned as to the early settlement of that city.

According to Bishop Meade the county contained only two parishes, Martin's Brandon and Bristol; but many of the instruments contain the

**Hening*, Vol. III, page 223.

designation "of the parish of Westover in the county of Prince George." Perhaps, this arises from the fact that the Charles City parish of Westover originally extended across the river.

The earliest records are found in the ponderous volume whose dimensions have been given. The manufacture of this book shows the conscientious workmanship of the old time. Its heavy linen paper leaves, bearing the water mark of the preceding reign, are inextricably sewed with cat-gut and the thick covers, magnificently bound with vellum, were deeply stamped with the Royal Arms, and fastened with massive, brazen clasps. Great strips of vellum have been cut away and the clasps have been wrenched off by despoilers, but the cat-gut still holds inexorably and the firm handwriting of William Hamlin, *clericus curiae*, exhibits its antique lettering in clear black ink which still shames its degenerate adumbrations. Its one thousand one hundred and sixteen pages contain deeds, wills, inventories and miscellaneous instruments from February 9, 1713-14, to May 14, 1728, with a few records dating back to 1711. The volume, second in seniority, contains the minutes of the county court from the March term, 1737-8, to April, 1740, proceedings of a single court of Sessions and two or three courts of Oyer and Terminer by special writ to the local justices. This volume was of similar workmanship, but smaller. The clasps and most of the vellum have been torn off and only pages 87 to 400 remain. The third volume is only a fragment of pages 75 to 196, without covers, during the clerkship of Theodrick Bland, father of Colonel Theodrick Bland, of the Bland Papers, with contents similar to volume one, from June 12, 1759, to June 10, 1760; and the fourth volume is a record book of ordinary appearance, from February 13, 1787, to November 8, 1792, containing a few instruments of earlier dates, in the handwriting, for the most part, of C. Russell, deputy of Peter Williams, clerk.

As has been before intimated, Prince George Courthouse has been a shifting local designation. As early as 1655, court was held at Merchant's Hope, first, as the court for the whole county of Charles City, but afterwards Charles City was allowed a dual court, one on each side of the river.* After the division and as early as 1714 the proceedings were still: "Att a court held at Merchts hope" on Powell's creek. In September, 1726, the court was transferred to "Fitzgerrald's," near Bailey's creek, probably at the place now called Frog Hole Bridge.†

Naturally, only a few documents are found whose publication *at length* would be of general historical interest, though as matters of curiosity the Oath and Declaration of Robert Norden, an Annabaptist preacher, made in pursuance of the act of I William and Mary "for Exempting

*Hening, Vol. I, pages 426-497.

† Prior to its removal to the present location on the main stage road the courthouse was at or near a place called Heath's on the Quaker Road about two miles from Well's Crossing. There is a tradition that the court was at one time held at Jordan's Point.

their Majesty's Protestant subjects, Dissenting from the Church of England, etc.,¹* and the Proclamation of Governor Spotswood, given hereafter, may have their value for special students.

Among the family names most frequently occurring in the records, most of which have been continuously identified with the county history, will be found Avery, Bolling, Bonner, Byrd, Burrow, Birchett, Banister, Batte, Braxton, Bridges, Claiborne, Cureton, Call, Cocke, Cargill, Chammiss (Chamliss, Chambless), Carter, Degraffenried, Epes, Eppes, Eldridge, Embrey, Fitzgerrald, Feild, Gee, Green, Hobbs, Gillum, Gillam (Gilliam), Hall, Harrison, Heath, Hardyman, Hill, Hamlin, Hinton, Herbert, Hardaway (Hardyway), Hunnicutt, Irby, Ingram, Jones, Kennon, Livesay, Munford, Mead, Peachy, Poythress, Peterson, Parham (Parram), Peebles, Raines, Randolph, Rives, Rosser, Ravenscroft, Ruffin, Stainback, Stith, Sturdivant, Stark, Tatum, Temple, Thweatt, Tucker, Wynne, and Wyatt.

Of names since peculiarly identified with Dinwiddie county the following appear from the earliest period: Abernathy, Atkinson, Boisseau, Butterworth, Cuzens (Cuzans, Cousins), Darvill, Goodwyn, Hatcher, Harper, Mallone, Powell, Reames, Ragsdale, Scott, Sissom, Vaughn (Vaughan), and Worsham.

In the latter part of the century many Scotch names begin to appear, such as: Baird, Boyd, Buchanan, Drummond, Dunlop, Fraser, and McConnico. All of these were merchants whose firms had diverted to Glasgow and Aberdeen the trade of the county, which in the earlier part of the century, so far as the records show, seems to have been carried on exclusively with London.

There is no corporation referred to in any of the volumes unless it be the Indian Company, for which Robert Bolling, Surveyor, reports a survey of 1,063 acres on November 21, 1716, and there are no Jews, except Thomas Jacobs (who sued Robert Cousens in 1738) and William Haxall, in 1788, who is believed to have been of Jewish extraction.

The historic origin of Petersburg is naturally, to the local antiquarian, a matter of prime importance, and Peter Jones, Senior, its reputed godfather and early possessor, a personage worthy of the most distinguished consideration. If we were not obliged to raise an ugly question as to this Peter's title to fame we should offer no excuse for transcribing his will in full, but as that document has not been scrutinized, and as itself raises the identical question, we feel that its publication needs no further *raison d'être*.† Peter Jones, the writer of the testament dated January 19, 1721, and probated January 10, 1726, is in the records called Peter Jones, Sr., and to him has always been accorded the distinction of lending his name to the city of Petersburg. Indeed, the latest historian‡ of the city de-

* See *Virginia Historical Society Magazine*, Vol. III, page 430.

† See page 284 for the will.

‡ Edward Pollock, *Historical and Industrial Guide to Petersburg, Va.*, 1884.

scribes with pleasing circumstantiality the time and circumstances of choosing the name. According to this account (which has never since been questioned), Peter Jones, Sr., was one of the companions of Colonel William Byrd on the "Journey to the Land of Eden," in 1733, and a member of the party of whom Byrd writes: "When we got home we laid the foundations of two large cities—one at Shocco's, to be called Richmond, and the other at the foot of the Appomattox river, to be called Petersburg." This paragraph is undoubtedly the first recorded mention of the city of Petersburg, but in the autumn of 1733, Peter Jones, Sr., had slept with his fathers for nearly eight years. His will raises the question which has proved insoluble to us. Which Peter Jones was Colonel Byrd's friend, and therefore the godfather of Petersburg? There were at least two Peter Jones who might have claims to the honor. At his death in 1725 or 6, Peter Jones, Sr., must have been a man of ripe age. He had been a captain and Indian fighter fifty years before. He left a son called Peter and a son-in-law called Peter, the latter a son of Abraham Jones, who was dead in April, 1719. These gentlemen, according to the will,* owned adjoining tracts of land, divided only by Brick House Run, and the town, as originally laid out, is described by the writer referred to as on both sides of Brick House Run, and therefore on the lands of both. Perhaps Bishop Meade is more nearly correct in attributing the designation to all of the Peters collectively. He says: "In looking over documents which have been furnished me, I find the name of Petersburg ascribed to the fact that a great number of persons of the name of Peter, especially of the family of Jones, were among the first settlers."†

In addition to the early titles to the lands now occupied by the city of Petersburg, among the more interesting historical estates, whose early titles can be traced, are Brandon, Flower deHundred and Appomattox, including Causons. On August 19, 1720. Robert Richardson et ux, conveyed to Nathaniel Harrison, of Surry, a "moiety or halfe part of two tracts of land called Merchant's Hope and Martin's Brandon * * on the south side of James River, in the county of Prince George, which was devised to the said Robert, by the last will and testament of Thomas Quincy, late of the city of London, Brewer, dec'd."‡ This Nathaniel Harrison held the office of Admiral of James River, and was the founder of the present Brandon manor house. The tract here referred to, was a portion of the vast Brandon estate, which has been so long held by his descendants.

Flower deHundred, which for several generations has been held by

* But see deed conveying land on Brick House Run and Appomattox River from Peter Jones, Jr. (son of Abraham Jones, deceased), et ux, to Robert Munford, *Prince George Records*, Vol. I, page 295.

† *Meade's Old Churches and Families, &c.*, Vol. I, page 444.

‡ *Prince George Records*, Vol I, page 422.

the Willcox family, was owned in 1721 by Francis Hardyman, who conveyed to John Hardyman, from whom, in 1725, it passed to Joseph Poythress and continued in that family for many years.*

The land at City Point, including the estate of Appomattox, now in the possession of Richard Eppes, Esq., was in 1722 conveyed by Mrs. Mary Epes of Charles City, to her sons William and Francis Epes,† the latter of whom, in the year 1738, is styled "of Causons."‡ The vexed spelling of this patronymic seems to be set at rest by these records, which abundantly prove that the same individual was called indifferently Epes and Eppes. Spelling was so much a matter of choice, that the old clerk wrote his own name sometimes Hamlin, and sometimes Hamelin.

The will of Richard Bland, of Jordans,§ father of the Virginia Anti-quary, and grandfather of Col. Theodrick Bland, mentioned above, is found in the oldest volume; and the will of Nathaniel Harrison|| of Brandon, son of the admiral, is recorded in the last.

Some reflections may be added later on as to the simplicity of life evidenced by the early records, but in passing we may note the three largest appraisements found in the first volume. Timothy Bridges, Gent., possessed personalty to the amount of £429, 10s., 4d; Capt. Drury Bolling, £542, 19s., 4¼d., and Capt. Henry Maynard, £615, 9s., 11¾d. Of course, many testators desired no appraisalment to be made, but even so rich a man as Richard Bland did not disdain to bequeathe feather beds specifically.

His Majesty's Justices for the period covered by the Minute-Book were: Robert Bolling, Wm. Harrison, Wm. Starke, Wm. Poythress, John Peterson, John Banister, John Ravenscroft, Anthony Peniston, Richard Bland, Isham Epes, Theophilus Feild, John Hall, James Munford and Nathaniel Harrison, gentlemen.

Wm. Epes was sheriff, with Wm. Epes, Jr., Miles Thweatt and Jos. Simmons, under sheriffs.

Wm. Harrison and Jas. Munford were coroners (*sic*).

Thomas Eldridge, gent. was attorney for the King, and the list of the bar included Edward Goodrich, who had been deputy clerk under Wm. Hamlin, John Randolph, Lewis Green, Jr., Robert Rogers, Robert Munford (?), Abraham Nicholas and Stephen Dewey. Members of the bar after the revolution were: Jerman Baker (?), Francis B. Green (?), Gray Briggs and Carter Harrison. During the same period Pleasant Cocke and Wm. Robertson were sheriffs, with James Cureton, deputy sheriff.

* *Prince George Records*, Vol. I, pages 511 and 826.

† Vol. I, page 537-541.

‡ *Minute Book*, page 157.

§ *Prince George Records*, Vol. I, page 394.

|| *Prince George Records*, Vol. 3, page 635.

Dr. John Hamersley* is the only medical man noted in the earlier period, if we except Charles Noden, who in his will designates himself "school master," but provides "if any medicines should come in to me ☞ next year's shipping, that Doctor Hammersley may have the Physicall part." †

Dr. Alex. Jameson, of Dinwiddie, is mentioned in 1759, but after the revolution the medical profession is notably strong. It included Dr. David Black, Dr. John Thompson, Dr. Jas. Field (who had studied and married in Edinburg ‡), Dr. John Ravenscroft, Dr. Isaac Hall and Dr. Strachan. Dr. Theodrick Bland, who had also studied abroad, had been transformed into a military man by the stirring times.

Thos. Rose, in the latter period, is the only schoolmaster or hope of learning mentioned, except the deceased, Charles Noden. Literacy made slow progress, as may be judged from the marks affixed by way of signature.

Pursuant to the direction of the Act of Assembly, entitled an act for the better regulation of the militia, Richard Bland, Wm. Poythress, Wm. Harrison, Peter Jones, Francis Poythress, Isham Eppes, Daniel Eelbank, Robert Munford, John Eppes, and Joshua Wynne, took the oath and signed the test as commissioned officers of militia on Mar. 13, 1738, without individual designation of rank. Nathaniel Harrison and James Munford did likewise at a later court. On the 29th of April, 1791, Captains Stephen Temple, Timothy Rives, James Cureton, Henry Heath, Peter Woodlief, and Edward Avery with Lieut. John Batte are sworn officers of militia, by Edm. Ruffin, J. P., agreeable to the Act of Congress, entitled, &c.

In a lease and release from Thomas Harrison to Robert Hall, dated Jan. 9, 10, 1723, we were struck by the name Thomas Jefferson, who with Thomas Bolling, Isham Randolph, Chas. Rogers, and John Henshaw, had witnessed its execution. If this was Mr. Jefferson's uncle, who is said to have died young, § perhaps this signature may be his only recorded act. Of interest also as recalling the ancestor of a distinguished Virginian is the deed of gift from Richard Taylor to his son George Keith Taylor, dated April 10, 1790.

Though the Indians had practically disappeared from the inhabited portions of Prince George, we still find evidences of the savage past. In each recorded county levy rewards for wolf scalps are picturesque items, || e. g.

* *Prince George Records*, Vol I, page 770.

† *Prince George Records*, Vol. I, page 727.

‡ *Prince George Records*, Vol. 3, page 237.

§ He lived across the river at Osborne's, in Chesterfield. *Jefferson's Correspondence*, Memoir, Vol. I, page 1.

|| *Minute-Book*, pages 196-365.

1738.	For Wolves Killed.	Old.	Young.	Tobacco.
Oct. 6.	To Wm. Pettypool,	1	5	560
	To John Robertson,	1	—	160
1739.				
Nov.	To John Stith,	1	—	160

An idea of the planter's inconvenience from this source may be gathered from an order of the county court of the October term, 1738.

"Ordered that the clerk of this court make out a certificate to the next session of the General Assembly, that there hath been levied and paid in this county for wolves killed therein in the years 1736-1737-1738, the sum of 4720lbs. of neet tobacco by inspectors notes."

At the April term, 1738, we find an instance of a white man being sold for debt, a severity which even at that time, seems to have aroused opposition.

"On the motion and complaint of William Stark and William Poythress, Churchwardens of Bristol Parish in this county, that Thomas Perry, an inhabitant of the said parish, left his habitation and his wife without suitable means for her subsistence, whereby she became burthensome and chargeable to the said parish to the value of four hundred and eighty pounds of Tobacco for her relief, for which the said churchwardens obtained a judgment of this county court against the said Thomas Perry, and for the costs of the said judgment amounting to sixty-five pounds of tobacco, and he failing to pay and discharge the said judgment therefore it is ordered (unless the said Thomas Perry shall give sufficient security to pay the said sums to the said churchwardens) that they take him into their custody, and bind him to service or sell him for as long a time, (not exceeding one year) as shall be needful to pay the said sums, for reimbursing the said parish the charge and expense aforesaid, to which order Richard Bland, Gent. dissented."

We gather from a recent monograph,* that while the mention of British convicts shipped to Virginia, Maryland, Jamaica, and Barbadoes are not infrequent, much difficulty has been found in discovering the name of a single New England convict. The Prince George records will supply the name of one human wreck thrust upon Virginia, but with more fortune than in the Massachusetts instance, her descendants are not likely to have preserved her memory. At the November term, 1738, Jane Anderson who "came into this colony an Indented Sarvant for Five Years," petitioned the court against her late master, William Eaton, for an allowance of 15 bushels of Indian corn which remained due her. This petition was granted, but Jane's moral inversions sought a channel of descent unlikely to disturb the curious in Virginian ancestry. At the following March term 1738-9, Ruth Anderson (a mulatto girl) daughter

* British Convicts shipped to American Colonies, by Jas. D. Butler, *Am. Hist. Review*, October, 1896.

of Jane Anderson, a white woman, was ordered to be bound out to William Eaton.

The proceedings of the grand juries are sometimes likely to cause a smile. At the November court, 1738, after all the solemn formalities of being empannelled, sworn, charged, retiring, and returning into court have been concluded, the foreman solemnly handed the clerk only this presentment: "We find Ward's creek bridge to be out of repair. Wm. Batte, foreman." With the exception of one or two cases of bastardy, the records shew nothing graver than such presentments as:

"Nov. 1738. Wm. Floyd a common swearer.

Wm. Bleighton for not Coming to church.

Wm. Irby for not going to church.

Douglas Irby for not going to church.

Hugh McDaniel a common swearer and drunkard and quarreller.

Robert Hudson a common swearer.

Wm. Temple and John Temple and Jacob Denheart for not coming to church.

George Wainright for not going to church.

John Hall a common swearer.

"Nov. 1739. John Brown for keeping a Tipling House.

Sarah Thomas makes information that Wm. Stuard met her on the King's highway and assaulted her in a very unlawful manner to make her yield to his desires."

Of Revolutionary material little is to be found. A deed from Richard Bland, *et ux.*, and Mary Bland to William S. Peachy fixes the location of Bland's Mill on Powell's Creek, which point was used as a depository for arms and stores in 1781, and was threatened by Benedict Arnold on his retirement from Richmond.*

An old time substitute is recalled by the conveyance of one hundred acres from thriftless Peter Blizzard to Edward Newell, being "the same that Edward Newell sold to the said Blizzard in the year 1782 for serving in the continental service as a soldier in the room of John Newell, who was drafted for eighteen months."†

In nearly all of the inventories where books are recorded, they are contemptuously referred to as "a parcel of old books." The library of Dr. David Black, of Blandford, is so much the more remarkable that we feel justified in transcribing the titles at length. The doctor was doubtless a Scotchman, and his varied collection represented the accumulation of his academic and professional life.‡

In the will of Colonel Theoderick Bland, probated in 1790,§ is found

* *Prince George Records*, Vol. 3, page 512.

† *Prince George Records*, Vol. 3, page 232.

‡ Dr. Black's library is enumerated hereafter.

§ *Prince George Records*, Vol. 3, page 404.

the only private or public educational benefaction. "I give and bequeath to Robert Bolling, of Petersburg, Benjamin Harrison, of Brandon, Peter Epes, Jerman Baker, St. George Tucker, Thos. Griffin Peachy and Doctor Isaac Hall, in trust, two acres of ground fronting the church on the top of Blandford Hill, together with a street of one hundred feet wide to the east and one sixty feet wide to the south of the afore-said lot on which two acre lot it is my desire the Publick may erect a College for the Education of youth within fifteen years after my decease otherwise it is my desire that the said Lands shall revert to my nephew Robert Banister to him and his heirs forever."

This pious design unfortunately proved abortive, and the hopes of this good man were probably otherwise disappointed. His wife, for twenty years, whom he left sole executrix and practically sole beneficiary of his estate, seems to have found her bereaved condition unbearable. But in contracting an alliance with Mr. Nathan Blodget, of Dinwiddie, in the following year, the articles of marriage agreement expressly securing "to the said Martha, after the said intended marriage shall have taken effect, the same unlimited and uncontrolled estate in and power over the said lands, slaves and moveable chattels as she now hath and as she would or could have exercised, had she remained, sole and discoverter,"* indicate that she attached a touching and unusual *pretium affectionis* to "the said lands, slaves and moveable chattels" of her deceased hero.

A single other of the Blandiana deserves note. Whether such a contract is enforceable in these days, we leave to those who shall enter into similar covenants. In 1760, Theodrick Bland, requiring an assistant in his office, took Edward Wyatt, son of Edward Wyatt, as an apprentice to learn the art of a county court clerk. Among the covenants of the said Edward may be read the following: "To any at Cards, Dice or at any other Unlawfull Games he shall not Play, Taverns or Tippling Houses, he shall not Frequent, Fornication he shall not commit, Maternity-money he shall not contract * * * but in all things as a Good and Faithfull Apprentice shall and will Demean and behave himself towards his said Master."†

In the records we find many traces of the governmental paternalism in regard to tobacco. In 1738, Thomas Eldridge, Gent., attorney for the king, is ordered by the justices to institute a prosecution against John Jones, on the Constables Information, for tending seconds, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of the Act of Assembly, made in the fourth year of the Reign of our late Sovereign Lady Queen Ann, entitled an act for improving the staple of Tobacco, &c. The prosecution was brought to a successful conclusion, and Jones was fined 1,000 lbs. of tobacco together with costs and an attorney's fee. Not until after the

* *Prince George Records*, Vol. 3, page 632.

† *Prince George Records*, Vol. 2, page 195.

revolution do we find official records of warehouse receipts and shipments, but from 1787, four warehouses, Hood's, Davis,' Byrd's and Blandford, returned annual statements of these particulars, with lists of outstanding tobacco transfer notes.

With the advance of the century the holdings of negro slaves, as well as of all personalty, increase rapidly. In the first volume, transfers of negroes, except by will, are of great rarity; but in the later years the deeds for slaves almost equal the conveyances of land. In 1788 a noticeable movement was set on foot for manumission, directed by the Rev. Augustin Heath. Quite a number of such deeds of emancipation of small families of negroes are of record, but the movement seems to have partaken rather of a religious than of an economic or sociological character.

The modern attorney is singularly struck by the simplicity of the legal affairs of the early settlers and planters. Until the latest volume, leases for terms of years, mortgages, liens and trusts of all kinds are almost entirely wanting. Suits are rarely referred to, and the records are taken up exclusively with absolute conveyances in fee and matters of probate, with here and there a power of attorney from a correspondent in London or Barbadoes for the collection of debts. There is only one instance of a dealing with a citizen of New England.

An ideal equality of property prevailed for many years. Small tracts of land averaging scarcely more than 100 acres were generally acquired. Members of the same family dwelt hard by each other, and fathers who had acquired a few hundred acres frequently encouraged the localizing tendency by deeds of gift, partitioning the lands among their sons. Manufactured articles of all kinds were rare, and the value attached to articles of prime necessity evidenced the simple habits of the pioneer. Here and there a silver hilted sword or a seal ring appears among the inventories or bequests, but, for the most part, guns, iron pots, kneading trays, feather beds, and pairs of sheets consoled disconsolate legatees. It is probable that no brick house existed in the county at the date of the earliest records, and the dwellings of the most prosperous planters contained from two to four rooms. Alas for Arcadian equality and theoretical sub-division of communal property! Within the limits of the same century, mortgages began to multiply, slaves were sacrificed for current expenses, and the courts echoed the cries of the auctioneer. Small holdings of land were consolidated into great estates, tribes of slaves accumulated in the hands of individual proprietors, and instead of the home keeping tendency of earlier times, the disappointed, as well as the daring, sought out fresh homes on the "Western Waters," and prepared new abiding places for the fortunate of earth.

GOVERNOR SPOTSWOOD'S PROCLAMATION.

*Virg' a. By His Majestys Lieu't. Governor and Commander
in Chief in this Dominion.*

A proclamation for the Enforceing the Laws for the better regulating the Manner of Signing and Certifying Propositions and greivances to the General Assembly.

Whereas the act made at a Generall Assembly held at James City the 8th day of June 1680: Entituled an act for presentation & Delivery of Greivances, tho Still unrepealed hath been so much neglected and Disused, that notwithstanding the plain Directions therein Given for preventing ill Disposed persons from Transmitting to the Generall Assembly, Scandalous and Seditious papers, under the Generall name of Greivances of the Countys wherein the Subscribers Dwell, altho the same be unknown to the Greatest part of his Majestys good Subjects of the County whose title they bear. I have received Information that such has been the Licentious practices of Divers Evill Disposed persons of Late, that scandalous and seditious papers have been framed and the Names of Divers persons put thereto, and others have been handed about through the Countys and the meaner sort of people called together in a Riotus manner to sign the same and the said papers called by the Generall Name of the Greivances of the freeholders or Inhabitants of such Countys, not signed at the Courts appointed for Certifying such Greivances as the said act Directs, nor presented by the persons signing the same, but by only one or two of the said Subscribers, have been Certifyed by the Justices of Such Courts altho it could not appear to them whether the names affixed thereto were really the writing of the persons said to be subscribers, neither doth it appear by the Certificates annexed thereto whether the same be the Generall Greivances of the Countys, or only of the persons subscribing nor which of the Subscribers did present the same. By which Evill practices the minds of his Majestys good Subjects have been seduced by private insinuations of Crafty and Ill Designing men, the good Intention of the said Act Evaded, and the time of the Generall Assembly to the Great Burthen of the Coun-

they Spent in reading trifling propositions or such papers as require rather the punishm't of the Authors than to be Considered as Greivances.

For prevention whereof for the future, and to the end the Propositions and Just Grievances of the people may be presented in a Decent manner and regularly Certified, I have thought Fit by and with the advice and Consent of his Majesty's Council to Issue this proclamation, Hereby Strictly chargeing and requiring all Justices of the peace within this Collony that they Diligently Observe the Directions of the aforerecited Act and that they Certifie no Grievances but such as Shall be signed at the time and place therein Appointed and Duly presented by the persons signing the same, and the said Greivances being so signed and presented they Shall cause to be attested as the Grievances of the person or persons signing and presenting the same as by the aforementioned Act and a Clause in the Act for regulating the Elections of Burgesses &c: passed in the year 1705, is Enjoined and Directed. And Whereas the power of redressing the Just Greivances of the people is Lodged in the Generall Assembly Consisting of the Governor, Council and Burgesses and not in either of the Houses of Assembly Separately, I do further with the advice aforesaid Direct and appoint that all such propositions and Greivances as Shall be Legally Signed and presented in the manner aforesaid, be Certified to the Generall Assembly as by Law they aught to be. And to the end all Rioutous and Tumultuos meetings for frameing and Signing Such propositions and Greivances may be prevented I do hereby strictly charge and require all Majistrates within this Colloney that they use their utmost Diligence to Discover and punish all such persons their Aiders and Abettors as shall be found to Assemble in a Riotous manner for Drawing up or Signing papers under the name of Greivances otherwise than the Laws in that Case direct, and I do appoint this my proclamation to be read and published by the Sherriffs at the Court house of every County at the first Court holden in the said County after the receipt thereof and to be entred upon the records of the respective County Courts. And that this proclamation be also published in the severall Countys together with the Writts for the Election of the Burgesses, and at the Courts of Claims. Given at the

Councell Chamber in Williamsburgh the 24th day of August 1715: in the second year of his Majestys Reign.

God Save the King,

A, SPOTSWOOD.

Att a Court held for the County of Prince George on Tuesday the 11: Day of October 1715: the above written proclamation was publickly read and published and according to the Command therein is here truly Entred upon record.

Test

WM. HAMELIN, Cl. Cur.

Prince George Records, Vol. I, page 72.

PETER JONES' WILL.

In the name of God, Amen. January the 19th, 1721. I Peter Jones Sen^r of Bristoll Parish in P^r Geo: Countty, being of Sound and perfect memory, praise be given to God for the same, and knowing the uncertainty of this Life on Earth, and being desirous to Settle things in Order, do make this my Last Will and Testament in manner and form following, that is to Say, first and principally I commend my Soul to Almighty God my Creator assuredly believing that I shall receive full pardon and free remission of all my Sins and be Saved by the precious Death and Meritts of my Blessed Saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus, and my Body to the Earth from whence it was taken, to be buried in Such Decent and Christain manner as to my Executors hereafter named, shall be thought meet and convenient; and as touching Such Worldly Estate as the Lord in mercy hath Lent me, my Will and meaning is the same shall be employed and bestowed as hereafter by this my Will is Expressed, and first I do revoke, renounce frustrate and make Void all Wills by me formerly made, and declare and Appoint this my Last Will and Testament.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Loveing Wife Mary Jones my Plantation I now Live on with the Dwelling House and all other Houses thereon belonging to the Same in manner as followeth, that She my s^d Wife dureing the term of her Widowhood shall peaceably enjoy the same to her own proper use and benefitt—provided she shall Live and abide her Self in person

upon the s^d Plantation, but in case she shall either Marry or remove her Self from Liveing on the s^d Plantation as aforesaid, then my Will is that she shall only have one third part thereof Dureing her Natural Life.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Abraham Jones a part of my Land Lying and being on the South Side the Brick-house Run, commonly so called, bounded as followeth Viz: on the Easterly part Joining on my Son in Law Peter Jones his Line, and from that Line up the Run to a Branch called the Indian Cornfield-Branch, and up the Branch to my head line, Containing about Seventy or Eighty Acres of Land, be it more or less, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Son Peter Jones the remaining part of my Land I now Live on, excepting what I have given and bequeathed to my Son Abraham Jones, that is to Say my Will is, that my Loveing Wife Mary Jones Live and Abide on the same Dureing her Natural Life.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son William Jones all my Land. Lying & being on the uper Side of the fores^d Besses Branch, containing about one hundred Acres of Land, more or less, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Thomas Jones my Plantation upon the Great Creek, so-called, on Nottoway River, to contain One hundred and fifty Acres of Land, which s^d One hundred and fifty to be taken out of my Tract of Land of Four hundred Acres, not Spoiling the other of the s^d Dividend, to him & his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son John Jones, One hundred and fifty Acres of Land, being part of the fores^d four hundred Acres upon Great Creek on Nottoway River on this side the 2d Creek, Joining on the Land of Indian Wills down the Creek, to Contain One hundred and fifty ácres of Land, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Wood Jones One hundred Acres of Land Joining upon my Son Thomas Jones his line, down the fores^d Great Creek, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Abraham Jones, my Two Slaves by name Tony and Sarah Daughter of old Sarah, she and her increase to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Mary Jones, Wife of Peter Jones, a malla: by name Matt: she and her increase, as also my Silver Tob. Box, to her and her heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Peter Jones my Mallatta Slave named Ishmael, as also one feather Bed and Bolster, One Rugg, One Blankett and One pair Sheets, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son William Jones, my Malla: Slave named Dick, and my Slave Moll, she and her increase, the s^d Moll Daughter of old Sarah, one feather Bed and Bolster, One Rugg, One Blankett and One pair of Sheets, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Thomas Jones, my Malla: Slave Elisabeth and one Mallatto Boy named Edward, she and her increase, One feather bed & bolster One Rugg, one Blankett, one pair of Sheets, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son John Jones, one Mallatto Fellow named Jack, and his Son Jack, and one Mallatto Girl named Susan, One Feather bed and Bolster, one Rugg, One Blankett, One pair Sheets, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Wood Jones, one Mallatto Fellow named Daniel and one Boy named James, and one Girl named Temp, One feather bed and bolster, One Rugg, One Blankett, One pair of Sheets, and my Seal Ring, to him and his heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Ann Jones, my Malla: Slave named Bess and her increase, One feather bed and bolster, One Rugg, One Blankett, One pair of Sheets and my Silver Tumbler, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Margaret Jones, my Malla: Slave named Frank, and her increase, One Feather bed and Bolster, One Rugg, One Blankett One pair Sheets & Six Silver Spoons, to her and her heirs for ever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my Daughter Martha Jones, my Malla: Slave named Mary she and her increase, One feather bed and bolster One Rugg, One Blankett, one pair of Sheets, one Silver Salt Seller, two Cows and Calves, to her and her heirs for ever.

Item. My Will is that my Malla: Slaves, by name, old Sarah,

her Son called Jack, Daniel and Rachell, Live and abide with my wife Mary Jones, to Serve her, her Natural Life, without let or molestation of any person or persons whatever, and at her Decease, my Will is that my Son Peter Jones have my Malla: Woman Rachell only, to him and his heirs for ever, and my Will is if henceforward the foresaid Rachell have any increase, the first after my decease to be given to my Son William Jones, and his heirs for ever, whatever increase afterwards from her I give to my Son Peter Jones, and his heirs for ever; as also my Will is that after my Wife's Decease, my Son Wood Jones have my Malla: Slave Daniel to him and his heirs for ever. Also my Will is after my Wifes Decease, my Daughter Ann Jones, have my Malla: Slave named old Sarah, to her and her heirs for ever.

Item. My Will is that if any of the foresaid Legatees of my four Sons, Viz: William Jones, Thomas Jones, John Jones and Wood Jones, depart this Life before they attain to Lawfull Age, that his or their part or parts of Land be equally divided among the Survivors.

And further my Will is that if any of my Seven Legatees, by name William Jones, Thomas Jones, John Jones, Wood Jones, Ann Jones, Margaret Jones, and Martha Jones depart this Life before they are possesst of what is herein of this my Will given and bequeathed, that his or her part or parts be Equally Divided among the Survivors of the foresaid Seven Legatees, to them and their heirs for ever.

All the Rest of my Estate not yet Disposed of, my Will is that it abide and remain in the possession and Custody of my Loveing Wife Mary Jones, Dureing her Natural Life & after her Decease to be divided between my two Sons John Jones and Wood Jones, to them and their heirs for ever.

And further my Will and Desire is that no part of my Estate whatever be Appraised or Valued, but that my Executors hereafter named, proportion and divide the same according to direction of this my Last Will and Testament.

And I do hereby Will, make, ordain, constitute and appoint my Trusty and Loveing Freind Major Robert Munford, and my Son Peter Jones, my full whole and Sole Executors of this my Last Will and Testament.

In Witness hereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal the Day and year just above written.

PETER JONES. Sealed wth red wax.

Signed Sealed and Publisht in the presence of

Nathⁿ Parrott
Daniel Jones
George Williams
James Thompson.

At a Court held at Fitzgerralds, for the County of Prince George on the Second Tuesday in January, being the Tenth Day of the s^d month Anno Dom: 1726.

The next before written Last Will and Testament of Peter Jones deced: was presented into Court by Robert Munford and Peter Jones Jun^r his Executors who made Oath thereto, and it being proved by the Oaths of Nathaniel Parrott, Daniel Jones, George Williams, and James Thompson, Witnesses thereto, by order of the Court is truly Recorded, and on the motion of the s^d Robert Munford and Peter Jones, and their giving Security Certificate is granted them for obtaining a Probate of the s^d Will in due form.

Teste Wm. Hamlin, Cl. Cur.

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DAVID BLACK'S LIBRARY.

Inventory & Appraisement of the Books as personal Estate of David Black, deceased, made March 3, 1782.

		£	s.	d.
Hoffmans works, Folio,	. . .	6 vols.	10	
Chillingworth's Works,		15
Molls Atlas (Maps),	. . .	1 vol.	4	10
Blainvilles Travels, Quarto,	. . .	2vol.		15
Wollarton's Religion of Nature	. . .	1 vol.		3

Bradley on Agriculture	1 vol.	5	
Atlas Geographys,	2 vol.	10	
French Dictionary	1 vol.	10	
Alpini de prosagie,	1 vol.	5	
Dales Pharmacologia,	1 vol.	7	6
Van Sincten Commontaris,	2 vol.	15	
Shaws Chimistry,	2 vol.	1	5
Grigorys Lectures	1 vol.	1	
Smellies Midwifery, Octavo,	3 vol.	1	5
Sydenhams Works,	1 vol.	10	
Heisters Compendium,	1 vol.	10	
Mehless Medical Essays,	2 vols.	12	
Boerhaaves aphorisms,	1 vol.	6	
Pringles Diseases of the Army,	1 vol.	6	
Hinds Essays, Octavo,	1 vol.	6	
Huxham on Fevers,	1 vol.	6	
Brooks practice of Physic,	2 vol.	4	
Chiseldens Anatomy,	1 vol.	6	
Le Drams Surgery,	1 vol.	10	
Monro's Astiology,	1 vol.	5	
Sharp's Critical Enquiry,	1 vol.	2	6
Hallers Physiology,	1 vol.	3	
Prolections,	5 vols.	12	6
Boerhaves Prolections,	2 vol.	6	
De Visebus,	1 vol.	3	
Theatre De L Univers,		2	
Lewis's Pharmacopœia,	1 vol.	5	
Cheyne's English Malady,	1 vol.	2	6
Robinson's Melancholly,	1 vol.	2	6
Baker's Microscope,	1 vol.	2	6
The painter's Letters, Octavo,	1 vol.	2	6
Gordon's Geography,	1 vol.	4	
Nithell on the pulse,	1 vol.	2	6
History of Europe, Octavo,	1 vol.	2	6
Pliny's Letters,	2 vol.	10	
Mortimer's Universal Director,	1 vol.	2	6
Atkinson's Navigator,	1 vol.	3	
Darrington's Journey,	1 vol.	1	3
Dale's Surgery,	1 vol.	2	6

Armstrong on Health,	1 vol.	2	6
Stocton on Diseases,	1 vol.	2	
Sharp's Surgery,	1 vol.	6	
Blegney's Veneral Diseases,	1 vol.	2	
Etmuller's Epitome,	1 vol.	2	6
Friendship in Death,	1 vol.	2	6
Hutcheson on the passions,	1 vol.	5	
New Dispensatory,	1 vol.	6	
Hutcheson's Enquiry,	1 vol.	5	
Dictionary of Arts and Sciences,	1 vol.	7	6
Cole's Dictionary,	1 vol.	6	
Dictionarum Rusticum &c.,	1 vol.	2	6
Blaneard's Lexicon,	1 vol.	6	
Montaigne's Essays, Octavo,	1 vol.	3	
Essay on Husbandry,	1 vol.	5	
Fielding's Miscellanies,	1 vol.	3	
View of the Stage,	1 vol.	2	
South's Works,	1 vol.	1	
Watts's Logic,	1 vol.	2	
Betagh's Voyage,	1 vol.	1	
Henriade, a poem,	1 vol.	2	
Castle of Indolence,	1 vol.	1	
Mead on Poison,	1 vol.	1	
Mavis Salust,	1 vol.	1	
Davidson's Ovid,	1 vol.	3	
Phedrus's Fables,	1 vol.	1	6
Smollett History, Octavo,	1 vol.	4	
Starke's Virginia Justice,	1 vol.	6	
Swift's Works, Duodecimo,	14 vols.	2	2
Spectator,	8 vols.	1	4
Pope's Works,	10 vols.	1	7
" Odeyssey,	3 vols.		9
Turkish Spy,	8 vols.	1	4
Adventure of a Guinea, Duodecimo,	4 vols.		10
Sturn's Works,	4 vols.		10
Rollin's Antient History,	9 vols.	1	10
Cato's Letters,	3 vols.		6
Adventurer,	5 vols.	12	6
Bauties of the Magasine,	2 vols.		6

Biographia Classica,	2 vols.	5	
Julia Mandiville,	2 vols.	5	
Kains's Sketches,	2 vols.	6	
Langhorne's Poems,	1 vol.	2	6
Thompson's Works,	1 vol.	2	6
Fisher's Companion,	1 vol.	2	6
Feilding's Works,	1 vol.	2	
Anson's Voyages,	1 vol.	2	
The Reverie,	1 vol.	1	6
Sewell's Ovid,	1 vol.	2	
Letters de Mlle,	1 vol.	1	
Walker's Epictetus,	1 vol.	1	
Histories,	1 vol.	1	
Pleasing Instructor,	1 vol.	1	
History of Oracles, Duodecimo, . .	1 vol.	2	
Young's Works,	1 vol.	2	6
Shellons Novels,	1 vol.	3	
Petseoties History,	1 vol.	1	6
Boyle's Voyage,	1 vol.	2	
Vidas art Poetry,	1 vol.	1	
Recueil,	1 vol.	3	
Fairy Tales,	1 vol.	3	
Account of Switzerland,	1 vol.	3	
Campbell on Miracles, Duodecimo, . .	1 vol.	3	
Rambler,	1 vol.	2	
Dryden's Dramatical Works,	1 vol.	3	
Mathamaticks,	1 vol.	2	
Craighead's Arithmetic,	1 vol.	2	
Characteristicks,	1 vol.	2	
Theobald's Shakespear,	2 vol.	6	
Boileau's Works,	1 vol.	3	
Butler's Hudibras,	1 vol.	5	
The Chace (a poem),	1 vol.	2	
Mead's Works (medical), Duodecimo, . .	3 vol.	7	6
Observations De L'Academee,	1 vol.	2	
Hippocrate's Aphorisms,	1 vol.	1	
Medical Essays,	4 vol.	8	
Boherhaave's Institutions,	1 vol.	1	
Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia,	1 vol.	3	

Reverius's Observations,	1 vol.	3
Freiven on Inoculation,	1 vol.	1
Tullis's Offices,	1 vol.	2
Pope's Poems,	1 vol.	1 3
Conversation of Gentlemen,	1 vol.	1 6
Miscellany Poems,	1 vol.	1 6
Brown's Works,	1 vol.	1
A Religious Discourse,	1 vol.	6
Mariner's Compass,	1 vol.	1
Plays,	1 vol.	1
The Fair Cercassian,	1 vol.	2
Persian Letters,	1 vol.	1 6
The Female Foundling,	1 vol.	6

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Slave Owners Spotsylvania County, 1783.

(Continued from Page 104, July No.)

Francis Cammock,	3	Elisha Dismukes,	5
Gawin Corbin,	35	Richard Dillard,	10
Mark Carrill,	1	James Drake,	3
Edward Collins,	7	Benjamin Dawson,	3
Walter Chiles,	12	William Dawson,	7
Richard Coleman,	7	Joseph Duerson,	11
Edward Coleman,	2	Benjamin Day,	2
Elijah Carter,	1	John Davenport,	6
Charles Cosby,	12	William Duvall,	5
David Chivis,	4	William Duvall, Jr.,	1
Caleb Coleman,	15	Henry Duerson,	10
Christopher Daniel,	5	Elisha Dickinson,	11
Benjamin Davis,	2	Ann Estes,	8
Mary Davis,	3	Hezekiah Ellis,	8
Edmund Dare,	3	William Davenport,	
Richard Dickerson,	13	Robert Darrett,	
John Day,	10	Thomas Estes,	2